

JTIP Handout: Lesson 11 – Interactions with Probation Officers, Prosecutors, Judges and Parents

PART 2: MEET THE PARENTS / CONFIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS/INFORMATION FOR DEFENDERS

You have been assigned to play the role of defender. Please read these facts and be ready to negotiate with the mother. Those participants playing the role of mother should not read this fact pattern.

The defenders in this exercise should assume that they have all of the information contained in PART 1 of this exercise. The participants playing the role of the mother should assume that she does not know any of the confidential information the attorney obtained during his or her communications with Ronald.

You are meeting with Ronald's mother to try to resolve the case informally. You and Ronald agree that they might need a break from each other and that Ronald's interests would be better served through a diversion program and support from his family and teachers, rather than entering delinquency proceedings and being labeled as an offender. Ronald has given you permission to tell his mother how bad he feels about all of the trouble he has caused her. He is willing to pay her back the money he took, but still believes that she is really exaggerating the amount; he does not think he should or could be in a position to pay the full amount back.

As you prepare to speak with Ronald's mother, think about the following questions.

You will be asked to revisit them after your meeting with her.

- A. How do you explain what Ronald ultimately wants?
- B. What is mom's position on how this matter should be handled?
- C. What are the mom's likely real and immediate interests?
- D. Can you think of any creative options for resolving the conflict between Ronald and his mother? What are some alternatives that would get Ronald out of the juvenile justice system (either now or before trial)?
- E. What barriers are likely to get in the way of an agreement between mom and Ronald? (e.g., How does mom feel right now? What is she upset about right now?)
- F. What can be done to get around these barriers?
- G. As the juvenile defender, how would you attempt to reach a consensus between mom and Ronald?
- H. What compelling arguments can you make to get Ronald's mother to go along with your recommended course of action?